FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 30, 2010

Contact:
Christine Dufour (651) 582-8720

Your Choice, Your Future Student Forums to Inspire, Encourage Eighth-grade Students to Register for Rigorous High School Classes

~ Research shows students score 2 points higher on ACT if they take more than core courses ~

Roseville – The Minnesota Department of Education is hosting five student forums throughout Minnesota to encourage eighth-grade students registering for their first high school courses in January to challenge themselves with courses beyond the state-required core.

Students who challenge themselves with curriculum beyond the state-required core can increase their ACT scores by two points, which could mean the difference between getting into college or getting into an elite college.

“Research indicates there is a group of students on the verge of academic success who could attend college or even an elite college if they simply challenged themselves with these ‘core and more’ courses,” said Education Commissioner Alice Seagren. “Too often, these students, for various reasons, register for only the required courses and consequently limit their future career opportunities.”

“Our students deserve to give themselves these opportunities and keep as many doors to their future open as possible,” Seagren said.

The Your Choice, Your Future student forums are scheduled for Dec. 1 at Cass Lake-Bena High School, Dec. 6 at Willow Creek Middle School in Rochester and three forums on Dec. 13: Highland Park Senior High in St. Paul at 8:30 a.m., Battle Creek Middle School in St. Paul at 10:30 a.m. and Brooklyn Center High School field house in Brooklyn Center at 1 p.m.

The Student Forums will feature motivational and inspirational speakers who can speak from experience about how education, hard work and dedication led to their success. Speakers will also share with these students the message that by taking a calculated risk and challenging themselves, they can achieve even more than they dreamed.

Students are required to complete a core of four years of English, three years of science including biology and chemistry or physics, three years of math including algebra II, one year of arts, and three and one-half years of social studies including U.S. history, world history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship.

What is More than the Core?

- Four years of English including advanced courses such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or concurrent enrollment
- Four years of math with the fourth year featuring an advanced math course (such as pre-calculus, discrete mathematics, AP Computer Science, AP Statistics) or a math-intensive course that requires math at the level of Algebra II (such as advanced economics or science courses)

- Four years of laboratory science including biology, chemistry and physics
- Three and a half years of social studies including advanced courses such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or concurrent enrollment
- Two years of a world language
- One or more courses in a specialized career interest area

Student Forum Schedule

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Commissioner Alice Seagren
Keynote Speaker: RunningHorse Livingston

Student Speakers: Ms. Autumn Brunelle is a Senior at Cass Lake-Bena High School. Brunelle was the recipient of the "Outstanding American Indian Student of the Year" at the Minnesota Indian Education Association's Conference, this fall. Mr. Gabriel Wakonabo is a Senior at Bemidji State University. Wakonabo recently received the "Outstanding American Indian Post-Secondary Student of the Year" at the Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference.

ACT Speaker: Rae Jones, ACT Director Elementary/Secondary Services

Cass Lake-Bena High School – 300 students attending
15308 State 371 NW
Cass Lake, MN

Monday, December 6, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Commissioner Alice Seagren
Keynote Speaker: Mitch Stevenson, Rochester Convention & Visitors Bureau sales manager
ACT Speaker: Rae Jones, ACT Director Elementary/Secondary Services
Willow Creek Middle School – 300 students attending
2425 – 11th Ave SE
Rochester, MN

Monday, December 13, 2010

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Commissioner Alice Seagren
Keynote Speaker: Jermaine M. Davis, http://www.jermainedavis.com/
ACT Speaker: Rae Jones, ACT Director Elementary/Secondary Services
Highland Park Junior High
975 S Snelling Avenue
St. Paul, MN

Monday, December 13, 2010

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Commissioner Alice Seagren
Keynote Speaker:Jermaine M. Davis, http://www.jermainedavis.com/
ACT Speaker: Rae Jones, ACT Director Elementary/Secondary Services
Battle Creek Middle School

2121 N Park Drive
St. Paul, MN

Monday, December 13, 2010

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Commissioner Alice Seagren
Keynote Speaker: Jermaine M. Davis, http://www.jermainedavis.com/
ACT Speaker: Rae Jones, ACT Director Elementary/Secondary Services
Brooklyn Center Junior High/Senior High Field House
6500 Humboldt Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

xxx